February 13, 2012

The regular meeting of the Sidney Public Schools Board of Trustees was held on Monday, February 13, 2012 at 7:00 PM in Room 104 of Central School. Present were Trustees Todd Hermanson, Dexter Thiel, Luann Cooley, Dennis Lorenz and Serina Everett. Also in attendance were Superintendent Farr, Clerk Beyer, High School Assistant Principal- Loretta Thiel, High School Principal- Dan Peters, Sidney Elementary Principal-Sue Andersen and Student Representative Shay Steinbeisser. Absent were Trustee- Kelly Dey, Middle School Principal- Kelly Johnson and Federal Programs/Testing Coordinator- Gary Arnold.

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Acting Chairman Cooley called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and welcomed the visitors in attendance- SEA Representative- Janet Spracklin and Bill Vanderweele with the Sidney Herald. Mrs. Cooley reminded those in attendance to sign in and stated that an opportunity for community comment on non-agenda items would be provided at the end of the meeting. Those wishing to address the board were asked to fill out the Audience Participation form and give it to the clerk to be recognized.

Mr. Lorenz moved to approve the minutes of the January 16, 2012 meeting and the January 2012 claim warrants 220096 to 220165 in the amount of $333,042.17. Mr. Hermanson seconded the motion which passed 5 to 0.

The January 2012 Associated Student Body report and transfers were approved on a motion by Mrs. Everett with a second by Mr. Lorenz. The motion passed unanimously.

*From Resources Unlimited to Talon $ 128.00 Orange Juice*

*From Athletics to Wrestling $ 361.21 Posting Error*

*From Key Club to Resources Unlimited $1227.55 Deposit Error*

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:**

Superintendent Farr reported the following to the Trustees:

- Correspondence: Letters from OPI regarding 2011 Special Education Monitoring granting final accreditation with full compliance noted. Michelle Monsen and the district special education staff made minor corrections following the on-site visit which resulted in no findings. Congratulations and thank you to the Special Education Staff for their hard work - .

- Transfers: Aunna Bertolino to Head Girls Basketball for the remainder of the season, Rich Munoz to Central Custodian and Brenda Kiamas to High School Head Custodian;

- Additions to the Consent Agenda

**New Hires**: Tessa Miller- OT/PT Aide; Jesse Nesper – Assistant Softball Coach

**2011-12 Attendance Agreement**: Alyssa Flood – Grade 4 Parent Request from Fairview;

- Mr. Farr met with insurance representative, Richard Begger, to address concerns regarding bus barn ceiling and doors. He is awaiting ruling from the insurance company regarding their plans for refurbishing/replacing the doors.

- Approval has been received from the state of Montana to change the name of the Sidney Community Education Foundation to the Sidney Education and Alumni Foundation. More research is needed before adopting the marketing name of The Eagle Foundation. Additional paperwork will be filed to complete that part of the name change;

- Upcoming meetings and events:

*Next Oil & Gas meeting is scheduled for March 28, 2012 at 1:00 PM*

*Boys & Girls Basketball Divisional in Billings February 23rd through 25th*

*District 2C Tournament is this week at the high school which will operate on a pep assembly schedule*

*Boys State Basketball in Butte March 1st – 3rd*

*Girls State Basketball in Butte March 8th – 10th*

*Eastern A Choir Festival in Glendive March 12th & 13th*

*Meeting spearheaded by Jim Steinbeisser with Rick Hill, gubernatorial candidate, will be Friday at 10:30 at the Chamber. Serina, Luann and Dexter will attend.*

Trustees questioned district insurance coverage as related to the bus barn fire and bus replacement. Administration was directed to contact the consultant who reviewed and recommended Western States Insurance for the current three year period to see if the other carrier would have covered the costs of the bus barn fire differently.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:**

- Shay Steinbeisser noted that Miles City High School gave $1800.00 to the Student Council to be used as a memorial for Sherry Arnold. Additional funds are available for this memorial and the Student Council will be looking at possible uses for these funds.

- Student Council will conduct spring discussions in regards to the student handbook with the idea of providing input and suggestions to the Trustees. He also stated the students would be considering a spring date for the cancelled snowball.

- Mr. Hermanson asked Shay to relay to the students how nice it is to attend events and see the school spirit. He said the students are making the community proud.

- Mr.Thiel asked about the appropriate way for the Trustees to recognize the individual achievement of the two individuals who were state wrestling champs. Discussion followed about the possibility of missing someone with all the events students are involved in. Following the discussion, congratulations was extended to all the wrestlers for their efforts this past year.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

***PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: February 7, 2012***

Mrs. Everett recapped committee agenda items:

- Met with Michelle Monsen- Special Education Director; Kelly Johnson, Middle School Principal who gave a presentation on the facility needs of the Middle School and Loretta Thiel High School Assistant Principal;

- District vacancies were reviewed; resignations and new hires are on the Consent Agenda;

- Maintenance staff transfers as presented on Superintendent’s report were reviewed;

- The District is exploring the possibility of utilizing United Work and Travel to assist with food service and custodian openings;

- District Clerk annual evaluation is scheduled for tonight;

- A summary of the fall co-curricular evaluations was presented; and

- Discussion continued on the desire to have a full-time athletic director.

Mrs. Cooley reported that she and Ms. Dey had done a presentation on oil and gas funding at Kiwanis and felt it went very well. Mr. Hermanson thanked the trustees for all the extra time they are putting in- doing presentations and serving on committees.

***TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE: February 7, 2012***

Mr. Lorenz reviewed highlights of committee discussions:

Bus Replacement cost was $99,650.00 for a 2012 Blue Bird with only $19,000 paid by insurance to replace the 2000 Blue Bird lost in the fire;

Superintendent Farr is looking into installing fire walls in the bus barn;

- Bus cameras have not arrived but new models will be released soon at no additional cost so the District has elected to wait for the new models; and

- Crane/Savage school bus stop continues to be a discussion issue.

***BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE: February 6, 2012***

Mr. Thiel summarized Building and Grounds issues:

- Dennis Deutsch with ABC Building Concepts provided updates to the Trustees on the following projects:

*Warranty Checks on High School 300 Wing/Kitchen and Administration/200 Wing/Library projects:*

*-* Identified a couple items with the library project that have not been completed;

- Issues with the walk-in freezer in the kitchen which are warranty covered with Minot Restaurant Supply;

- Stainless steel funnels in the kitchen continue to be a problem.

*Punch List for the High School 100 Wing project:*

*-* Canopy project is finished. Awaiting delivery of owner manuals

*Middle School Projects: Warranty Checks on Phase I and Punch List on Phase II Project:*

- Owner manuals to be delivered by 2/20/12

*West Side Projects: Punch List on Remodeling/HVAC projects:*

- Some items not finished

- Testing & balancing is not done – when complete another custodial training for all district custodial staff on the West Side heating system will be conducted by Frontier Heating;

- West Side Office Remodel is scheduled for this summer*;*

- High School Parking Lots: Will remain on agenda until completion in spring;

- West Side expansion discussion continues. New subdivision plans continue to arrive in the district. Continue to discuss facility needs to address possible influx of students;

- Central Elementary Engineering Report: asbestos reports have been received;

- Middle School kitchen remodel request for proposals was reviewed and is slated for completion this summer;

- Capacity studies included discussions regarding possible West Side expansion and future school sites as well as attempting a bond issue;

- District Project Direction for 2011-2012 was part of the capacity discussion and included funding issues; and

- Staff Housing continues to be an area of concern for the District.

***FINANCE COMMITTEE: February 6, 2012***

Mr. Hermanson briefed the audience on committee discussion topics:

- The January claims and December financial reports were reviewed;

- Enrollment and ANB based on February 1st count day were reviewed. Of interest to the committee, was the gigantic turnover in students – continuous comings and goings which puts pressure on everyone in the system - office personnel and teachers who are constantly needing to update paperwork or send paperwork off;

- Superintendent Farr reported that the Montana Quality Education Coalition is moving forward with a return to court requesting the inflationary increases guaranteed by law. The Coalition has gained new members. Trustees expressed thanks to Mr. Farr for serving on this committee and keeping the district at the forefront of happenings statewide;

- Additional attendance agreements for 2011-2012 are on the consent agenda;

- 2012-2013 preliminary budget discussions centered on the school election scheduled for May 8th. Consensus of the Trustees was to return to a walk-in format at the High School. The time involved with a mail ballot election given the transient nature of Sidney’s current population makes this too time consuming for staff;

- The committee reviewed options available for using American Express points. The consensus was to turn the points over to Eagle Foundation. Current points amount to approximately $13,500.00;

- The committee reviewed the regional oil and gas meeting; and

- District Clerk evaluations are tonight. .

***CURRICULUM AND POLICY COMMITTEE: February 7, 2012***

Mr. Lorenz highlighted committee topics:

- Review of summer Title I reports was conducted. There is a correlation between testing scores and students who participated versus those who were asked to participate in the program but elected not to;

- Conversations with representatives of the Montana and North Dakota university systems including Dickinson, Williston and Minot indicated the North Dakota universities have a real interest in helping us with post secondary education needs if Montana will not;

- Annual policy review is ongoing with the Safety Committee with the intent to present recommended changes at the April meeting;

- David McDonald, high school science instructor, has requested permission for an out-of-state field trip or the Robotics team to go to the regional competition in Colorado.

- MHSA proposals were reviewed with direction provided by Trustees on voting; and

- Initial review of Board Policy sections 3000 to 5000 was conducted. Firearms and weapons policies are under scrutiny as current community happenings have impacted students and parents in the area of personal safety and it is believed that many individuals on school property are breaking current board policy.

Mrs. Cooley brought up the current atmosphere in the state regarding hazing with particular emphasis on extra-curricular groups in Montana high school who have experienced this during the current school year and the need for administration to do some research in this area.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Resignations**

- Roberta Hall – Spanish

- Molly Cook-Find - Custodian

- Jeff Bowen – High School Girls Basketball

- Amy Verhasselt – OT/PT Aide

**New Hires**

- Sylvia Basnaw – Special Education Aide

- Sheri Williams – Truancy Officer

- Debbie Eggar – Hot Cook

- Dara Allison Harvey – Custodian

- Jennifer DiFonzo – Assistant Girls Basketball Coach

- Thom Barnhart – Assistant Girls Basketball Coach

- Kaitlyn Eskridge – Special Education Aide – Part-time

- Jesse Nesper – Assistant Girls Softball Coach

- Tessa Miller – OT/PT Aide

**2011-2012 Student Attendance Agreements**

Table 1: Attending Sidney Schools

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name: | Grade | Parent | Request | Dist |
| Grady Larson | 2 | Kris Larson | Parent | Brorson Elementary |
| Jarod Hofer | 5 | Kelli Bousquet | Parent | Brorson Elementary |
| Cooper Hofer | 7 | Kelli Bousquet | Parent | Brorson Elementary |
| Alyssa Flood | 4 | David Flood | Parent | Fairview Elementary |

Trustees approved the out-of-district agreements for students to attend Sidney Schools with no tuition charged on the parental requests.

**May 2012 Trustee and Budget Authority Election Resolution**

- Sets May 8, 2012 as election date with polls to be open from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM at the Sidney High School gymnasium.

- Sets the purpose of the election as: elect two elementary trustees for a three year term, one elementary trustee for a one year term, one outlying high school trustee for a three year term as well as request additional levies to operate and maintain Sidney Public Schools Districts 5 and 1 for the 2012-2013 school year

- Directs the District Clerk to notify election judges of their appointment and notify the county election official of the election.

**American Express Point Donation**

With the use of the American Express card to pay a majority of the District’s monthly bills comes earned points. Research on the best way for the District to utilize earned points provided the following two scenarios:

- Receive .5% cash back or approximately $5000.00 for every 1 million points earned or

- Receive 1% cash back or approximately $10,000.00 for every 1 million points earned by donating all points to a charity registered on the American Express website. The Sidney Community Education Foundation is registered on the website and has agreed to accept these points and designate them towards an account that could be accessed and used to purchase needed school supplies and equipment. Approval of this recommendation authorizes the superintendent and assistant clerk to work with the Foundation and American Express to donate points earned by Sidney Public Schools to the Foundation.

**Out of State Field Trip Request**

High School Science Robotics to regional competition in Denver, Colorado March 21st through 25th.

Clerk Beyer pointed out the change to the election resolution. In the past, polls have been open from Noon until 8:00 PM but in consideration of the current working population of Sidney- the polls will be open from 7:00 AM until 8:00 PM.

Mr. Hermanson asked about funding for the robotics trip and was told that Mr. McDonald had written a grant to pay for the expenses;

Mr. Lorenz moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Mrs. Everett seconded the motion which passed 5 to 0.

At 7:46 PM Acting Chair Cooley announced that the next matter to come before the Board was a personal matter and that he had determined as follows: 1) that the matter of the individual’s privacy is involved; 2) that such privacy demands protection of the individual for the sake of reputation, and otherwise, little, if anything, could be gained by publicly disclosing the information to be discussed; and 3) that the demand for privacy in this matter clearly exceeds the merits of public disclosure. Therefore, he called for an executive session for the purpose of the district clerk’s annual evaluation.

At 8:14 PM Acting Chair Cooley reconvened the meeting.

With no further business to come before the Trustees, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

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Board Chair

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Attest:

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District Clerk